

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-14 OMB-01 AID-20 SAM-01 EUR-25

NIC-01 EB-11 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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R 081100Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1865
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3962

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JO, KN

SUBJ: ESTABLISHMENT OF JORDANIAN/NORTH KOREAN RELATIONS

REF: A. AMMAN 3695(NOTAL)

B. CAIRO 4887

1. SUMMARY: IN SURPRISE MOVE, AMBASSADORS OF PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND JORDAN IN DAMASCUS SIGNED COMMUNIQUE JULY 5 INAUGURATING FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED ON JUNE 30 (REPORTED REFTEL A). AS REPORTED AMMAN PRESS, COMMUNIQUE STATED: THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN AND THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF KOREA, MOTIVATED BY THE DESIRE TO DEVELOP RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THEIR COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF COMPLETE EQUALITY, RESPECT
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FOR MUTUAL SOVEREIGNTY, AND NON-INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL

AFFAIRS OF THE OTHER, HAVE DECIDED TO SET UP DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THEM AT AN AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL EFFECTIVE FRIDAY, JULY 5, 1974.

3. AMBASSADOR WEE DON CHANG, ROK CONSUL GENERAL IN CAIRO, IS CURRENTLY IN AMMAN ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM SEOUL AND VISITED AMEMBASSY TODAY TO BRIEF ON HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH JORDANIAN OFFICIALS REGARDING GOJ DECISION TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA. AMBASSADOR CHANG SAID THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH MIN OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS ZUHAYR MUFTI AND OTHER FONMIN OFFICIALS, CHANG NOT SURE, BUT THINKS NORTH KOREANS INTEND ESTABLISH NORTH KOREA NONRESIDENT MISSION FOR JORDAN WORKING OUT OF EMBASSY IN NEARBY DAMASCUS WHICH HAS HANDLED ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS THUS FAR. HE SAID GOJ TOLD NORTH KOREANS (AS GOK) THAT DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT ESTABLISH RESIDENT MISSION IS "UP TO THEM". JORDANIANS STATED THAT THEY MERELY TRYING TO PURSUE BALANCED POLICY VIS-A-VIS COMMUNIST AND OTHER COUNTRIES, AND THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS DID NOT EFFECT FRIENDLY SOUTH KOREAN-JORDANIAN RELATIONS WHICH REMAIN CONSTANT. JORDANIANS HAD SUGGESTED THAT SOUTH KOREA MIGHT IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING IN AID AND ATTENTION THAN HAD BEEN THE CASE. AMBASSADOR CHANG STILL AWAITING POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT WITH PREMIER ZAYD RIFA'I IN HIS ATTEMPT TO PURSUADE JORDANIANS TO DELAY TAKING ANY FURTHER CONCRETE STEPS BEYOND RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. CHANG STATED THAT GOK HAD RECENTLY ABANDONED OBSTRUCTIONIST POLICY RE NORTH KOREA IN FAVOR OF "OPEN DOOR", SINCE FORMER POLICY AN ADMITTED FAILURE. IN PRESENT CASE, HE ADDED, MOST THAT COULD BE HOPED FOR WOULD BE SLIM POSSIBILITY OF GOJ'S DELAYING RELATIONS, IN SPITE OF ROYAL DECREE.

4. AMB CHANG NOTED THAT NORTH KOREA ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH JORDAN PRIOR TO COMMUNIST CHINA IS FIRST SUCH INSTANCE IN HIS EXPERIENCE AND TOTAL REVERSAL OF NORMAL PATTERN.

5. IN HIS REPORT TO SEOUL, CHANG SAID HE CONSIDERING RECOMMENDING ROK ESTABLISH ONE-MAN PERMANENT MISSION IN AMMAN TO LOOK AFTER 100-ODD KOREAN TECHNICIANS EXPECTED TO START WORK SOON ON VARIOUS ROAD AND IRRIGATION PROJECTS. RESIDENT MISSION WOULD REMOVE DISADVANTAGE VIS-A-VIS EXPECTED DAMASCUS-BASED
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NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY AND IMPROVE PRESENT AWKWARD SET-UP WHEREBY ROK EMBASSY JIDDA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR POLITICAL RELATIONS, BEIRUT FOR COMMERCIAL AND ANKARA FOR MIL ATTACHE.

6. AMB CHANG SAID THAT ROK WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SYRIA AND MENTIONED IN PASSING THAT ROK WOULD WELCOME ANY HELP FROM US IN THAT REGARD. HE FELT THAT IF JORDAN IS ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH

NORTH KOREA, PERHAPS SYRIA CAN BE INDUCED TO TAKE SIMILAR STEP WITH REGARD TO ROK. WE WERE NON-COMMITAL ON THIS POINT.

7. COMMENT: GOJ ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA CAME AS COMPLETE SURPRISE TO ALL DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS IN AMMAN. GOJ RECENTLY RECEIVED RESIDENT AMBASSADOR FROM SOUTH VIETNAM AND CONCLUDED CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT WITH TAIWAN: CURRENT MOVE COULD BE SEEN BY GOJ AS ATTEMPT AT BALANCE. FACT THAT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED IN DAMASCUS WOULD TEND TO SUPPORT IDEA THAT SYRIA SERVED AS INTERMEDIARY. AMBASSADOR CHANG SPECULATED THAT LAST WEEK'S VISIT OF SYRIAN FORMIN KHADDAM TO JORDAN MAY HAVE INCLUDED TALKS ON NEW RELATIONS (BUT NEITHER HE NOR WE HAVE ANY INFO TO CONFIRM THAT SPECULATION). MININFO INDICATED TO EMBOFF THAT GOJ MOVING CAUTIOUSLY IN ACTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA AND IS LAYING STRESS ON "NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" ASPECTS OF AGREEMENT. PICKERING

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